

## January - Week 5

## Winter Colors

**The mid-winter landscape is oftentimes** cloaked in white. Shades of browns and grays of bare deciduous trees and the green needles of conifers may be the dominant colors that one sees. But this week, slow down and notice winter's rainbow of colors. They are certainly out there, waiting to be found.

Look for reds. Male Northern Cardinals breeding plumage is beginning to brighten. Red-osier dogwood branches are a bright contrast to the grays and browns of other deciduous trees and shrubs. Look for blues. Blue Jays and Nuthatches with their different shades of blue can be seen foraging for food and are frequent guests at bird feeders.

Take some time to closely examine the bark of trees and their buds to look for other signs of reds, purples, and greens. Observe birds in your neighborhood or a local park in search of those with field markings in red, yellow, orange, and more. What other natural organisms can you find that are adding a splash of color to the winter landscape? In your journal, document your findings with lists, colorful sketches, and more. Complete your journal entry with your favorite mid-winter color surprise.



Red-osier Dogwood